

## **REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

The defining theme for the committee's work was "Improving quality of life while increasing economic development."

Policy recommendations to achieve this goal are these:

There is a need for a comprehensive strategic plan that identifies and responds to the issues that are critical to Houston's future. The committee suggests revisions to Chapter 33 of the City Code of Ordinances to address this need. (attached)

There are specific issues that require immediate consideration and action. We suggest that there are five top areas of concern to citizens, and they are, in priority order, the following:

- Mobility
- Public Safety
- Responsive Leadership
- Economic Development
- Neighborhoods

These subjects have been identified in strategic planning discussions in the Mayor's office and were also identified by the Blueprint Houston process to describe citizen values and interests.

To enable officials and citizens to do strategic planning and address these and other issues, the City needs significant development of its Geographic Information System and graphic visualization capability. Such tools are needed to help coordinate the overlapping activities of governmental agencies that serve the City.

The top issue, mobility, needs a new, ongoing, long-term focus on planning, agency coordination, scheduling, and identification and securing of funding opportunities. Mobility planning needs to be part of an economic growth strategy to promote value growth of property and sales tax bases while serving the needs of the community in housing and services.

Finally, the committee believes there is a need to continue its work after the end of this current phase, and its members are prepared to do so. A list of issues that need discussion is attached.